

## **The memorial of Prof. S. Kitamura.**

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My first contact with Prof. Kitamura took place at Kyoto in Sept. 1974 during a scientific trip to study the Indochinese specimens of Leguminosae in the various herbaria of Tokyo and Kyoto. I had the opportunity to appreciate the excellent welcome of all the colleagues and particularly that of Prof. Kitamura who was very happy to speak French with me and escorted me around various tours along the Kyoto city and gardens.

The second main meeting with Prof. Kitamura has been in Paris during his four months visit with his wife to the Herbarium of the National Museum of Natural History in the autumn 1977. During that time he could identify many specimens of Asiatic Compositae and I had the pleasure to invite them at

home and guide them for the visit of various interesting places of the French Capital.

The meeting on the Flora of Thailand held in May 1979 at Kyoto gave me the last opportunity to see again Prof. Kitamura and to be with my wife guests of honour in his home for a typical delicious Japanese dinner.

From that time I have received every new year from him a splendid card of season's greetings written in French except alas! this year (2002) when he probably was already very weakened.

I will keep in mind an admiring memory not only for the scientific work of Prof. Kitamura but also for his human qualities and behaviour.